

We Claim:

1. An immediate release dosage form capable of being chewed or disintegrated in the oral cavity prior to swallowing, comprising:
 - a. a plurality of particles comprising a pharmaceutically active ingredient, said particles having a particle size of about 150 μm to about 400 μm ; and
 - b. a matrix comprising, based upon the total weight of the dosage form, from about 0.1 percent to about 25 percent of hydroxyalkylcellulose having a weight average molecular weight of from about 60,000 to about 5,000,000 and/ or a viscosity of from about 3,000 mPa.S to about 150,000 mPa.s in a 2% aqueous solution.
2. The dosage form of claim 1, wherein the hydroxyalkylcellulose is a hydroxypropylcellulose having a weight average molecular weight of from about 140,000 to about 1,150,000.
3. The dosage form of claim 1, wherein the hydroxyalkylcellulose is a hydroxypropylmethylcellulose having a viscosity of from about 3,000 mPa.S to about 150,000 mPa.s in a 2% aqueous solution.
4. The dosage form of claim 1, wherein the matrix further comprises a water-disintegratable, compressible carbohydrate selected from the group consisting of dextrose monohydrate, mannitol, sorbitol, xylitol, and mixtures thereof.
5. The dosage form of claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutically active ingredient is selected from the group consisting of acetaminophen, acetyl salicylic acid, ibuprofen, naproxen, ketoprofen, flurbiprofen, diclofenac, cyclobenzaprine, meloxicam, rofecoxib, celecoxib, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, isomers, and mixtures thereof.
6. The dosage form of claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutically active ingredient is selected from the group consisting of pseudoephedrine, phenylpropanolamine, chlorpheniramine, dextromethorphan, diphenhydramine, astemizole, terfenadine, fexofenadine, loratadine, cetirizine, mixtures thereof and pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, isomers, and mixtures thereof.
7. The dosage form of claim 1, wherein the matrix is comprised of, based upon the total weight of the dosage form, greater than about 0.5 percent and less than about 10 percent of the hydroxyalkylcellulose.

8. The dosage form of claim 1, wherein the hydroxyalkylcellulose is selected from the group consisting of hydroxymethylcellulose, hydroxyethylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, hydroxyethylmethylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, and mixtures thereof.
- 5 9. The dosage form of claim 1, wherein the hydroxyalkylcellulose is hydroxypropylcellulose and/or hydroxypropylmethylcellulose.
- 10 10. The dosage form of claim 1, wherein the dosage form is a tablet.
11. The tablet of claim 10 manufactured by a direct compression or dry granulation process.
12. The dosage form of claim 1, wherein said dosage form meets USP dissolution requirements for immediate release forms of said pharmaceutically active ingredient.
- 15 13. The dosage form of claim 1, which has a moisture content of not more than about 5 percent as measured by weight loss on drying at 105 degrees Celsius.
14. An immediate release dosage form capable of being chewed or disintegrated in the oral cavity prior to swallowing, comprising:
- 20 a. a plurality of particles comprising a pharmaceutically active ingredient, said particles having a particle size of about 150 μm to about 400 μm ; and
- b. a matrix comprising, based upon the total weight of the dosage form, from about 0.1 percent to about 25 percent of hydroxyalkylcellulose having a weight average molecular weight of from about 60,000 to about 5,000,000 and/ or a viscosity of from about 3,000 mPa.S to about 150,000 mPa.s in a 2% aqueous solution,
- 25 wherein the plurality of particles comprised of a pharmaceutically active ingredient are substantially free of hydroxyalkylcellulose having a weight average molecular weight of from about 60,000 to about 5,000,000 and/ or a viscosity of from about 3,000 mPa.S to about 150,000 mPa.s in a 2% aqueous solution.
- 30 15. The dosage form of claim 14, wherein the hydroxyalkylcellulose in the matrix is selected from the group consisting of hydroxymethylcellulose, hydroxyethylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, hydroxyethylmethylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, and mixtures thereof.
- 35 16. The dosage form of claim 14, wherein the hydroxyalkylcellulose in the matrix is hydroxypropylcellulose and/or hydroxypropylmethylcellulose.

17. The dosage form of claim 14, wherein the dosage form is a tablet.